HIBISCUS OF THE YEAR 1970

May we quote from a letter from Frank Welenc, Jr. of Daytona Beach:

"During a recent visit with Ed Wissner, we had a most interesting and stimulating discussion. Among the topics was one that we felt should be brought to the attention of all members of the A.H.S., therefore, I am hoping you will find space to publish this letter in the Seed Pod.

"The International Rose Society chooses a seedling each year as 'Rose of the Year' five years later. (In 1967 shows, the seedling is chosen as 'Rose of the Year 1972.) By this time, the hybridizer has had time to send wood to all of the nurseries so that there can be enough plants for distribution in 1972, and the plant is available to all. Most rose fanciers always try to buy the Rose of the Year. With Hibiscus I believe the time could effectively be cut to three years so that, in say, show year 1967 the Judges can choose the outstanding seedling of the year and officially name it 'Hibiscus of the Year 1970'. The hybridizer is then instructed to distribute wood to a said number of nurseries, and they raise the plants and send wood to other nurseries. Then everyone has plants from which they may graft and start plants for the official release.

"I believe this would give our efforts the exposure so necessary. With proper coverage, it would stimulate the public and possibly make our motto 'A hibiscus in every yard' a reality."

There are some complications one can think of, but the plan has good possibilities. Perhaps the idea should be turned over to a special committee to make a study and work out the mechanics so that it could be tried. Drop the Executive Secretary your ideas in a letter. It sounds good.

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ANSWER TO NEW ISOTOX - SAFE?

In the last issue on page 27 there was a letter from Mrs. Joan Lyons about the new formula Isotox. Here is a letter she received from the Chevron Chemical Company, the makers of Isotox.

Dear Mrs. Lyons:

Thank you for your recent letter relative to your spraying hibiscus, citrus, gardenias, and other garden plants with our new formula Isotox.

We referred your letter to our Research Department in San Francisco, California. These people notified our Dr. Dave Pate at our Research Station at Ocoee, Fla.

Dr. Pate's report to us is as follows:

> Defoliation of Hibiscus varieties and fruit drop of citrus definitely must be the result of a severe drouth, with inadequate irrigation. I just completed the tenth day observation of a hibiscus spray test involving twenty varieties sprayed with two tablespoons of new formula ORTHO Isotox Insect Spray per gallon of water. Spraying was done on 5/12/67, 1:30 - 2:30 p. m., 94 - 96°F, 66 - 63% relative humidity, full sun but plants turgid and recently watered. Result was no injury due to Isotox spray - not even accelerated leaf aging and natural defoliation.

Dr. Pate also reported that Burt Barling, Barling's Nursery, Orlando, Florida, grows approximately 200 varieties of hibiscus and has used our new formula Isotox since March of 1966. Mr. Barling has observed no injury and will give testimonal.

Our label on the new formula Isotox reads, "Do not use on fruits and vegetables."

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